SARON MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Music Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com

Irma Gorman, Organist

Amanda Bradley, Admin Assistant
Cell: 419-306-5780
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Bradley717@gmail.com

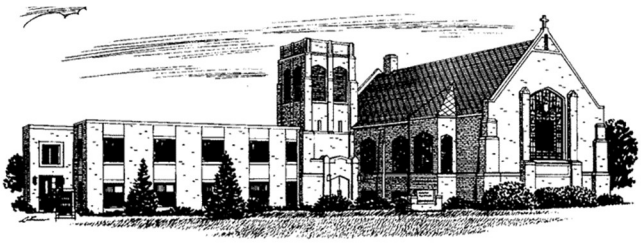
Megan Savage, Bookkeeper
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org

Typical Sunday at Saron:
Summer of 2022 (beginning June 5):
10am Worship
On-Location and via Zoom
Nursery Available
No Learning Hour

Fall, Winter and Spring (beginning Sept 11):
8:30am Worship On-Location
9:40 Learning Hour for Ages 2-Adult
11am Worship with Zoom Option
Nursery Available

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia
Saron's Mission: *Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*



PASTOR JOAN'S ARTICLE FOR AUGUST 2022

I just spent the last week with family visiting from WI and MA. What a delight it has been. Visits from family have turned into some traditions that just don't get missed – a trip to the beach, the Whirlpool Fountain, the Carousel, Kilwin's, a couple favorite stores, Silver Beach Pizza and some wine tasting, to name a few! Visits also include new experiences, some of which may turn into traditions and some not. And, of course, with a two-year-old around, plans could change at a moment's notice.

Traditions at church may also have a season or be set aside for a time. We have found that to be true during Covid. Some things got added – like Zoom – and other things just couldn't happen. One of the things we are setting aside, at least for now, is our tradition of going to Tiscornia for outdoor worship and breakfast on Labor Day weekend. The space has become more cumbersome for our group with the cost of parking, the desire to be Zoom optional, and changing Covid restrictions all contributing to this decision as recommended by the Worship Team and affirmed by Council. Instead, we will have worship in the sanctuary at Saron, followed by a picnic in the courtyard. I hope you can all join me in the splendor of the Saron community on September 4.

-Pastor Joan

LOOKING AHEAD:

We will return to two services at 8:30am and 11am (Zoom option available) with Sunday School at 9:40am on September 11. More details in our September newsletter.

General Information

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Watch weekly emails and door signage for any change in protocol. As of printing, masks are encouraged for those who feel so inclined but not required. Nursery workers and communion assistants will wear masks.

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Joan
Monday-Thursday Mornings
Amanda Bradley (Admin Assistant):
Mondays & Thursdays 8am-noon
Wednesdays as needed
Helping Hands Office Volunteers:
Wednesdays 9:00am-11am (approx)
Megan Savage (Bookkeeper):
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30pm

When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (269/983-1273) or contacting the council president.

Note: Emails for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org to ensure privacy. Emails to Amanda and the church office should be sent to info@saronlutheran.org.

Last Call

We are near ready to print our new directory. Please let us know if you have any additions or deletions. If you wonder what info we have, give us a call or email your current info to us by August 7.

Caring and Sharing

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bernice Koski is at Woodland Terrace in Bridgman;
Kathleen Preston is at Woodland Terrace in St. Joseph;
Tom Taylor is at Caretel in St. Joseph.

Happy August Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members!

8/1 Bradley Gorman
8/2 Joseph Ulrey
8/3 Ted Dosch
8/3 Tim Standen
8/4 Linda Huff
8/5 Emma Dipert
8/5 Brian Hohman
8/6 Nicholas Hooper
8/7 Janet Hebner
8/7 Edward Standen
8/9 Benjamin Baumgartner
8/9 Mary Smart
8/14 Maggie Hammer
8/15 Dave Bailey
8/16 Tedd Gorman
8/18 Easton Bommarito
8/19 Liam Hicks
8/20 Diana Dubman
8/22 Irma Gorman
8/23 Andy Huff
8/24 Paula Risetter
8/24 Rebecca Sherry
8/26 Elizabeth Kunkel
8/27 Pam Olson

Happy July Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members!

8/1 Matthew & Laurel Gacek
8/7 Nicole & Victor Coar
8/7 Brad & Marilyn Frey
8/14 Eloise & Donald Moely
8/15 T.J. & John Koehler
8/20 Shelly & David Stankiewicz
8/24 Jack & Cheryl Houser

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round!"

If there are any omissions from the birthday or anniversary list, or if a date is incorrect, please let us know so we can get it correct in the future!

THANK YOU

We extend our best wishes and gratitude to Emily Gaul, our childcare staff member, for her 4 years of service to Saron. She submitted her resignation in mid-July and will be missed dearly by those that frequent our nursery. Good luck in your future endeavors, Emily!

Volunteers will be utilized until we can secure a replacement. There should be no gaps in providing this valuable service to our families with young children.

FORTIFY & fly

It may be Summer but we're not just sitting on the beach, at least not *all* the time. Lots of discussions and planning are happening behind the scenes to prepare for next phases on several projects. Landscaping, adding/ enhancing storage, outside lighting and signage, modifying an existing facility to create a family restroom, and new sanctuary flooring are just some of the possibilities being researched and explored. We also just received the preview link to our new website from the designer so we can play around and give her edits.

At the end of June 2022, we had collected an additional $170 for a total of $376,533 towards our pledge total of $367,205. If you still have a pledge to fulfill or simply wish to continue giving, we'll find a home for it. As always, thank you for being with us on this journey!

Worship

Are you interested in becoming a member of Saron or learning more about the faith from the Lutheran perspective? If so, contact Pastor Joan.

NURSERY

Nursery service is available during the service. In order to utilize the space most effectively, this option is primarily directed towards our youngest members and guests. For preschoolers that occasionally need more physical and/or emotional space, activities are available in the narthex. There are also clipboards with coloring pages, as well as children's bulletins, to assist kids as they transition into participating in worship. **It's vital to embrace family units in all stages in our congregation and as such, we gladly welcome wiggles and giggles in worship!**

The goal of the nursery is to provide a safe environment to facilitate a meaningful worship experience for families negotiating life with children. We recognize that may not look the same for all and encourage concerns and suggestions.
For health and safety reasons, only the approved childcare providers assigned for that day should be in the nursery space during worship. Nursing mothers are always welcome!

PRAYER GROUP

Join us Mondays at 11am for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship or via other means. We meet in the sanctuary.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

We will continue the Zoom fellowship at 11am as long as there is interest. The link remains the same each week and is sent out on Tuesdays.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You can sponsor a week by using the link in the weekly email or by calling the church office. Make sure to note any special occasion to be recognized in the bulletin. Flowers are $35 per vase. Please follow up with a check to Saron with "Flowers" on the memo line. Thank you for helping to beautify our worship space! Feel free to take them home after the service to enjoy. **Please return the vase to Saron to be reused.**

FACEBOOK

We often share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear, please contact Pastor.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

August 7: Nine Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 14: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 21: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

We are planning an end of summer gathering for our youth group (grades 6-12) on the evening of
Wednesday, August 24
6:30pm-8pm
at the Home of Kristen Harper.
We look forward to seeing you.
Friends are always welcome to join us!

Contact Merrily at merrilyannsmith@gmail.com with any questions.

Learning

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR

With our summer schedule, the Learning Hour takes a break until after Labor Day.

Beginning in September, we will offer a time of age-appropriate study between the two services (9:40-10:30):

- **Grades 5 and Under** meet in the Sunday school classroom.
- **Confirmation Students** (Grades 6-8) meet in the confirmation classroom.
- **Adult Forum** meets in the upstairs lounge.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This group intends to continue meeting all summer. Join us for a time of study and fellowship on **Tuesday evenings at 6pm in the upstairs lounge**. Around 7pm, we'll adjourn to a local restaurant for more discussion but with food and drink. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, or email:
Bob Kynast (269-921-2786, bobkynast@gmail.com)
Don Hafer (269-985-3637, hafer.don@gmail.com)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

For the summer, the **Tuesday at 9:30am** study will be a little more informal and focus on the Gospel lesson for the coming Sunday. The format is that of the African Bible study, where the text is read from different Scripture translations with reflection. **We will meet outside (weather permitting) at the main entrance off the alley. Zoom will still be available if we know in advance.**

Please let Pastor know if you ever have any questions. This class is open to all interested in attending. You are welcome to join any time, for one session or for many.

This is the list of our selections for good reads (and even better discussions) for 2022-2023:

Oct 2, 2022	The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
Nov 6, 2022	One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Mariane Cronin
Dec 4, 2022	Still Life by Sarah Winman
Feb 5, 2023	Factfulness; Ten Reasons We 're Wrong About the World and Why Things Are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling
Mar 5, 2023	The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
Apr 2, 2023	Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder
May 7, 2023	The Violin Conspiracy by Brendon Slocumb

MONTHLY DEVOTION/BREAKFAST

We will NOT have the Saturday monthly devotion/breakfast in August.
Hopefully, we'll start up again in September.

Contact Dennis Lundgren with any questions at dennis.lundgren@me.com

Women of the ELCA

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will NOT meet in August. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14 in the church lounge.

Contact Melanie McCammon at 269/449-8399 for more information about this group.

Hospitality

SUNDAY SNACKS

Who doesn't love a snack during a time of fellowship in the narthex or courtyard after the service? If you would like to be a Sunday snack host, sign up via the link in our weekly email or call/email the office so Amanda can sign you up. Please plan for 30 to partake. Thank you!

Outreach

DIAPER COLLECTION THANK YOU

"Saron Lutheran's kind and generous congregation donated 1,916 diapers and 596 wipes!! I'm pretty sure that is the most from a single congregation in our history!

That brings the total we are taking to the Berrien County Health Department tomorrow to 8,922 diapers and 5,496 wipes. Additionally, Sisters from Another Mother in Benton Harbor are bringing 3000 from various churches they collected from in the past month or two.

Thank you so much. This will prove to be a valuable resource for so many mothers and children. I know God is blessing you.

Sincerely,
Ruth Kremer
Co-founder, United through Motherhood"

NOTE: After this note was received, we had to call and arrange a second pick-up because our box was nearly full again. She was blown away.

NOISY OFFERING

We receive a noisy offering (or those not-so-noisy bills) on the first Sunday of each month.
These gifts are sent to ELCA World Hunger.
Thank you for your generous offerings!

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

For I was hungry and you gave me food.
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25:35

On June 23rd Saron members Marilyn Frey, Alaina Bradley, Jim Manore, Dave Bradley & Kathie Bradley were busy at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen preparing lunches for 100 guests. It was again wonderful to be able to greet & serve the guests in the dining room! Cookies, which are included with the lunches, were provided by Pat Breyen, Steve Bell, Keith Stevens, Marilyn Lucy and Freida Williams.

Special THANK YOU to those that donated large cans of fruit, jars of pickle spears and cookies to be frozen for months when we are short, as well as monetary donations. These items may continue to be donated throughout the year. The need is great!

If you are able to help with the preparation and serving or by providing cookies, please use the link in the weekly email or contact Kathie Bradley at 269-921-4665.

Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry with your time, contributions, and prayers.
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

The Inclusivity Task Force is committed to extending a welcome to all. Our congregation adopted the following welcome statement and is a **Reconciling in Christ** church.

As a community of faith who *joyfully shares God's love for all*, we believe our lives and faith are strengthened by diversity. We strive to be a community who welcomes people of every ability, age, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, language, marital status, political perspective, race, and sexual orientation. We are committed to the work of racial equity. Whatever life's circumstance, we openly welcome and value you. We celebrate God's unconditional love and respond joyfully to your presence here. All are welcome. You are welcome.

If you ever have any questions or need clarification on our inclusivity journey, please feel free to call any one of the task force members:

Connor Ashley: cashley1837@outlook.com
Laurel Gacek: 269/470-6062 or mlmg2445@sbcglobal.net
Laura Hicks: 517/930-0579 or lhicks42@gmail.com
Darlene Kiessel: 269/313-4062 or kiessel@me.com
Diane Madej (Open Hearts. Open Church): 231/670-0328 or dianemadej234@gmail.com
Pr Joan Oleson: 269/983-1273 or oleson@saronlutheran.org

INTERFAITH ACTION

Interfaith Action

Interfaith Action (swmichiganinterfaith.org) is a coalition of over 40 faith communities in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Some members of Saron attend meetings and work with various task force groups. One of the goals of Interfaith Action is to promote understanding and respect for diversity.

Check out the Interfaith news bulletins at swmichinterfaith.org/bulletins

Support

The Support Committee will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm via Zoom. Contact Don Hafer with any questions at 269/985-3637.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, email Joe Ulrey at josephulrey@yahoo.com to receive more information. Thanks!

Facilities

Thank you, John Taylor!

B E A U T I F U L

HELPING HANDS (Previously Golden Hammers)

We do all sorts of things from building maintenance to preps for worship in the sanctuary to assembling bulletins and newsletters and so much more. We meet on Wednesdays around 9am and know you are invited – whatever your age, gender, or ability. There is a job for you to use your helping hands.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

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A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

August School Supply Drive

We will again be collecting school supplies, most likely benefiting Eau Claire Schools, during the month of August as part of our *God's Work. Our Hands.* service project. Items like pencils, erasers, markers, scissors, glue sticks, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, black Sharpies and whiteboard markers would be much appreciated. Gift cards to stores like Meijer, Walmart and Staples can be used by teachers to fill in gaps in supplies for the classrooms.

Thank you for your support of this important outreach effort. It's vital that children, our future leaders, have proper learning implements!

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11am Prayer Group **6:30pm-8pm VBS**	**2** 6pm Bible Study **6:30pm-8pm VBS**	**3** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee **6:30pm-8pm VBS**	**4** 9:30am Bible Study **6:30pm-8pm VBS**	**5**	**6**
7 10am Worship with Zoom Option	**8** 11am Prayer Group	**9** 6pm Bible Study 8pm Support Meeting	**10** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	**11** 9:30am Bible Study	**12**	**13**
14 10am Worship with Zoom Option	**15** 11am Prayer Group 7pm Council Meeting **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**	**16** 6pm Bible Study	**17** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	**18** 9:30am Bible Study	**19**	**20**
21 10am Worship with Zoom Option	**22** 11am Prayer Group	**23** 6pm Bible Study	**24** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	**25** 9:30am Bible Study **Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen Day**	**26**	**27**
28 10am Worship with Zoom Option	**29** 11am Prayer Group	**30** 6pm Bible Study	**31** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee			